

REMARKS

This response is being submitted within one month after the three-month shortened statutory period that was set for responding to the outstanding Office Action. Therefore, a petition and fee for a one-month extension are enclosed herewith.

Hereinafter, the claims that are pending prior to the entry of the amendments in this response are called "currently pending claims." This response amends currently pending Claims 1, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 23, 29, 32, 35, and 38; adds new Claims 80-122; and cancels currently pending Claims 39-41 and 57-71 without prejudice or disclaimer. Upon amendment, the above-identified U.S. patent application will have six independent claims (amended Claims 1, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17) and 103 total claims (amended Claim 1, currently pending Claims 2-8, amended Claim 9, currently pending Claim 10, amended Claim 11, currently pending Claim 12, amended Claim 13, currently pending Claim 14, amended Claim 15, currently pending Claim 16, amended Claim 17, currently pending Claims 18 and 20-22, amended Claim 23, currently pending Claims 24-28, amended Claim 29, currently pending Claims 30 and 31, amended Claim 32, currently pending Claims 33 and 34, amended Claim 35, currently pending Claims 36 and 37, amended Claim 38, currently pending Claims 42-56 and 72-79, and new Claims 80-122). The Applicants previously paid for up to seven independent claims and 78 total claims. Therefore, a fee of \$450.00 is due for 25 additional excess total claims; and a check for this fee is enclosed herewith.

Support for amending currently pending Claims 1, 23, 29, 32, 35, and 38 can be found in, inter alia, the originally filed version of Claim 1 and the last paragraph on page 10 of the specification.

Support for amending currently pending Claims 9, 11, 13, 15, and 17 can be found in, inter alia, the originally filed version of Claim 1.

Support for new Claims 80-82 can be found in, inter alia, the originally filed version of Claim 1 and the last paragraph on page 10 of the specification.

Support for new Claims 83-107 can be found in, inter alia, originally filed Claim 1.

Support for new Claims 108, 113, and 118 can be found in, inter alia, the originally filed version of Claim 9.

Support for new Claims 109, 114, and 119 can be found in, inter alia, the originally filed version of Claim 11.

Support for new Claims 110, 115, and 120 can be found in, inter alia, the originally filed version of Claim 13.

Support for new Claims 111, 116, and 121 can be found in, inter alia, the originally filed version of Claim 15.

Support for new Claims 112, 117, and 122 can be found in, inter alia, the originally filed version of Claim 17.

In item 2 in the section entitled "Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102" on page 2 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejects currently pending Claims 1, 4, and 7 for allegedly being

anticipated by CA 74:12468; and in item 3 on page 2 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejects currently pending Claims 1, 4, 7, 39-41, and 72-75 for allegedly being anticipated by CA 111:154088. The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections because CA 74:12468 and CA 111:154088 do not teach or suggest the claimed invention (i.e., the invention claimed in amended Claim 1, currently pending Claims 2-8, amended Claim 9, currently pending Claim 10, amended Claim 11, currently pending Claim 12, amended Claim 13, currently pending Claim 14, amended Claim 15, currently pending Claim 16, amended Claim 17, currently pending Claims 18 and 20-22, amended Claim 23, currently pending Claims 24-28, amended Claim 29, currently pending Claims 30 and 31, amended Claim 32, currently pending Claims 33 and 34, amended Claim 35, currently pending Claims 36 and 37, amended Claim 38, currently pending Claims 42-56 and 72-79, and new Claims 80-122).

In item 4 on page 3 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner indicates that currently pending Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, and 42-71 contain allowable subject matter; and in item 5 on page 3 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner indicates that currently pending Claims 9-18, 20-38, and 76-79 are allowed. Therefore, in view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. It is submitted that the claims of record are in condition for allowance. . . Allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited.

This response amends currently pending Claims 1, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 23, 29, 32, 35, and 38; adds new Claims 80-122; and cancels currently pending Claims 39-41 and 57-71. The cancellations, amendments, and additions that are described in the preceding sentence were done to improve the wording of the claims and/or to more fully claim the Applicants' invention. The cancellations, amendments, and additions that are described in the first sentence of this paragraph shall not be considered necessary to overcome

the prior art, shall not be considered necessary to overcome rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, and shall not be considered necessary to overcome any other rejections or objections.

The Applicants reserve the right to seek protection for any unclaimed subject matter either subsequently in the prosecution of the present case or in a divisional or continuation application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 C.F.R § 1.136(a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed; and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account No. 12-0415.

I hereby certify that this correspondence (with all of the enclosures) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

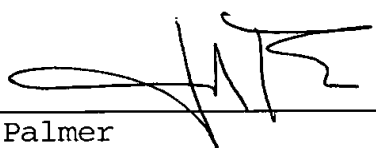
September 19, 2003
(Date of Deposit)

JOHN PALMER
(Name of Applicant, Assignee
or Registered Representative)


(Signature)

9-19-03
(Date)

Respectfully submitted,



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Encl.: A petition and check for \$110 for a one-month extension
A check for \$450 for 25 additional excess total claims